

Vehicle Stops

A Fact: Of the officers that Die making traffic stops, MOST die making a so called **LOW-RISK** stop for a misdemeanor violations.

Officers by the hundreds stop motorist every day for minor traffic violations and discover at some point during the stop that they are dealing with an individual that has just

1. **Committed murder or armed robbery.**
2. Who is transporting contraband or weapons.
3. **Who is hell bent on committing suicide.**
4. Who is fearful that the stop will mean a parole violation.
5. **Who is in a homicidal rage over a fight with a spouse.**
6. Who is abducting a rape victim.
7. **Or someone who has vowed to kill the next cop who pulls them over.**

History has shown that of the officers kill during vehicle stops that:

43% are killed after making initial contact.

24% are killed after their vehicle has stopped prior to exiting the vehicle.

22% are killed while exiting or approaching the vehicle.

11% are killed while their vehicles are still moving.

Assessing Risk

1. What is the **nature** of the offense involved. IT DOES NOT MATTER ALL STOPS ARE UNKNOWN THREATS.
2. How many **occupants** are readily visible. The number of occupants represents the number of problem areas you have to deal with. Always think that there is at least one more occupant present than you can see.
3. What is the **behavior** of the occupants. Remember that the violator Knows who he is and what he has done prior to the stop than you do, but he may think that you know, too, and be responding accordingly.
4. What **weapons** are involved? Always assume that the violator and all the occupants in the vehicle are armed.
5. What type of **vehicle** is involved. VAN WITH NO WINDOWS. ECT.
6. What is the **environmental hazards**. Besides crowds, consider trees, rocks and other cover options that are available to you. Terrain features, such as curves and hills that may add to your risks as well as other **TRAFFIC**.

If at any point, circumstances change and the threat escalates, then adapt your tactics. Do not remain trapped in an approach that is inappropriate for the perceived threat that you are faced with.

PUT THE ODDS BACK IN YOUR FAVOR.

Know what you are going to do prior to making the stop!!